

Please read carefully and retain for future reference

**UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS:**

**INSTRUCTIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

U.S. Representative Joe Sestak

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Because of the extremely keen competition for nominations, you are urged to apply to every nominating authority which your eligibility allows, (i. e. your Pennsylvania U.S. Senators, your Congressman, President, Vice-President, children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, etc.). However, if you receive a nomination from another source, I will not be able to duplicate that nomination. Since the academies are able to award more appointments than are provided by Congressional vacancies and other categories, no candidate who is highly qualified needs more than one nomination—whether Principal, Alternate or Competitive—to obtain an appointment. By the same token, no candidate who fails to meet academy standards will benefit by having multiple nominations. In order that more interested applicants will have an opportunity to be reviewed by the academies, please let me know immediately if you are nominated by another authority.

Each Congressional office uses a selection process, designed to meet its own needs and standards. The different procedures are often confusing to applicants who apply to more than one office. Last minute misunderstandings can be avoided by carefully studying and following the instructions of each office.

Certain information is required, as outlined below, in order for you to be considered as an applicant. It is your responsibility to submit this information and to keep it updated. **The deadline for receipt of information is October 16, 2009** to ensure adequate time to assess each candidate's qualifications.

## **II. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Residency – Applicant must be a legal resident of the Seventh Congressional District.
- B. Application Form - The enclosed application forms must be completed and returned by the official deadline of **October 16, 2009**. Formal candidacy is established in my office upon receipt of the application. It is not necessary for you to send all of the required information at once, and you should not wait to file your application if your transcripts or test scores are not immediately available.
- C. Recommendation Form and letters - The recommendation form must be completed by your school Guidance Counselor or Principal and returned to my office. Three additional recommendation letters must be submitted. These can be from teachers, coaches, employers, etc.
- D. Transcript - An official transcript of your high school record, and if possible, your class rank, must be submitted. This transcript must show your final junior year grades. If you apply before this information is available, it is your responsibility to request your guidance counselor to send an up to date transcript and to keep your records current.
- E. College Boards - The SAT and ACT are required entrance exams recognized by the Service Academies for candidates admitted to one of the Service Academies. Applicants are responsible for registration for tests and for requesting scores to be sent to the academy (ies) and to my office. Direct SAT scores to my office by indicating **5459** as the code on the CEEB form. If you are unable to include my office in your original choices for test reports, send me a copy of the report you receive in order to save time and the additional report fee.
- F. Leadership - Leadership potential and physical fitness are judged from the information provided on your application form. This information should be kept up to date. Unlike civilian colleges, the Service Academies place strong emphasis on physical training. In addition, the academies, like civilian colleges and universities, place a high premium on leadership and extra-curricular activities. Therefore, consideration must be given to each candidate's proven ability in these areas.
- G. Qualifying Medical Exam - The individual academies will recommend the scheduling of medical examinations to the Dept. of Defense Medical Review Board (DODMRB) as part of their admissions process. There is no cost to the candidate for this examination. Any problems developing from the medical exam process should be reported immediately to my District Office at 610-892-8623.

### **III. BASIS FOR SELECTION**

Selections are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors and leadership potential, extra-curricular activities, physical fitness, and recommendations. The following are included:

- a) school records, class rank, and grade point average;
- b) extra-curricular activities;
- c) college board scores. Normally, competitive candidates will have above 600 on verbal and 650 on math, or ACT scores above 22 on verbal and 26 on math and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class standing, the greater will be your chances for a nomination, assuming qualification in the remaining areas of consideration.
- d) Motivation. One of the most important considerations in the selection process is motivation – the candidate’s desire to attend an academy. It is also the most difficult to measure. To an extent, motivation can be judged by a candidate’s diligence in completing their file, which is one reason those with incomplete files are not considered for nomination. In addition, candidates are invited to write an essay on the reasons for wanting to attend an academy. This may be done on the reverse side of the application form. The essay can be the most helpful tool in deciding if you make it to the “finals” in the other categories.
- e) Interview. Each candidate who completes a written application will be interviewed by the Service Academy Selection Committee. The Committee is composed of members of the public, who are appointed by me, and previous Congressmen, to review all of the applications, interview the candidates, and make recommendations to me on nominations. Once your file is complete, you will receive further information scheduling your interview.

GOOD LUCK!

All correspondence regarding the service academies should be sent to the following address:

U.S. Representative Joe Sestak  
Attention: Chip Ridewood  
600 North Jackson Street  
Suite 203  
Media, PA 19063

Inquiries may be directed to Chip Ridewood at 610.892.8623 or  
[Chip.Ridewood@mail.house.gov](mailto:Chip.Ridewood@mail.house.gov)

**REMEMBER: DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION  
IS OCTOBER 16, 2009**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Legal Requirements for Nominees include the following:

Candidates must be:

Citizen of the United States.

Between 17 and 23 years of age by July 1 of the year of entry.

Unmarried and have no legal requirement to provide support to a dependent.

Of good moral character.

Resident of the District from which nominated. Legal residence of custodial parent normally determines constituency should parents be divorced.

Qualifications for Admission to academies include consideration of scholastic examination scores, physical aptitude scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, athletic and medical examinations, and are determined on an individual basis through evaluation of the "whole person."

College Board or American College Testing Examinations are required of all applicants.

#### **Minimum Scores Required Generally Are:**

	<u>SAT</u> Verbal/Math	<u>ACT</u> Verbal/Math
Military Academy	600/650	21/25
Naval Academy	600/650	21/25
Air Force Academy	600/650	21/25
Merchant Marine Academy	550/600	20/25

Class rank in top 40% is usually required, but qualification may be waived for nominees demonstrating compensating qualities.

Medical examination is required of all applicants; exams are given at various locations around the country. Evaluation of all medical examinations is made by the Dept. of Defense Medical Review Board. 20/20 Vision uncorrected is required of 60 to 70% of applicants for Air Force Academy and 70% of applicants for Naval Academy. Vision must be correctable to 20/20.

Minor disqualifying defects subject to medical or dental correction can be waived. Disqualifying illnesses include: chronic skin diseases, organic heart diseases, uncorrected hernias, asthma, loss of fingers or toes, etc.

## **Other Commissioning Options**

### **Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)**

A very satisfactory alternative to attending a service academy is participation in one of the ROTC programs offered by the military services. This is typically a four year elective program that is offered on many college campuses. The ROTC program can offer full tuition scholarships to qualified students. Completion of a Reserve Officer Training program will result in your commissioning as a Second Lieutenant or Ensign along with those cadets and midshipmen who graduate from a military academy the same year you graduate from college. Your high school guidance counselor is a resource to consider for information on applying to ROTC programs as are the following websites:

<http://www.navy.com/careers/nrotc/>

<http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.jsp>

<http://www.afrotc.com/scholarships/>

### **Officer Training School (OTS)/Officer Candidate School (OCS)**

Each service will have a unique process for commissioning officers who are not graduates of their service academy or ROTC program. This path typically requires a relatively short training program (3-10 months) for commissioning. For more information it is recommended you visit the website of the service that interests you most and consider its career needs. If this path interests you, it is important that you consider a degree program in college that is valued by the service you are considering. In general, OTS opportunities are considerably enhanced by a degree in a technical area.

<http://www.usnavyocs.com/portal/index.php>

<http://www.ocs.usmc.mil/>

<http://www.goarmy.com/ocs/>

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/OTS/BOT/botapply.asp>

### **Education & Commissioning Program**

Again, this program will be unique to each service and it is essential that you study each carefully and in consultation with your parents. This program offers someone the opportunity to advance from enlisted to commissioned officer status. This path typically allows for qualified enlisted personnel to attend college full time to obtain a degree needed by their particular branch of the service, followed by commissioning through OTS/OCS in that service. The disciplines available for study are in technical areas such as engineering or computer science, and an applicant generally must have completed 45 semester hours of transferable college credit, including math and physical science. The service pays all college tuition expenses and fees, and the student draws his pay as an enlisted member (often at paygrade E-5) while attending school full time.

<http://www.navyadvancement.com/development/navy-programs/enlisted-officer-program.php>

<http://parents2.marines.com/page/Enlisted-To-Officer.jsp>

[GOARMY.COM](http://www.goarmy.com)

<http://www.afrotc.com/scholarships/enSchol.php>